



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
August 30-31, 2013

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on August 30-31, 2013 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers with 44 species recorded. Refuge wetland units continue to go dry, even in the interior part of the Refuge where most of the available water from the Bear River has been concentrated. The refuge has had a huge influx of migrant waterfowl and shorebirds within the last few weeks. Dabbling duck numbers were above average for this time of year in spite of a large portion of the refuge being dry. Numbers of American avocet and black-necked stilt were well above average with overall shorebird numbers slightly above average. A highlight of the survey was getting a visual observation of the Virginia rails which is unusual. The lower water conditions in some wetlands appear to have forced these birds more out into the open.

Canada goose	4,965	American avocet	11,528
Mallard	7,941	Willet	2
Northern pintail	22,900	Spotted sandpiper	13
Green-winged teal	30,410	Greater yellowlegs	30
Cinnamon teal	5,706	Lesser yellowlegs	1
Northern shoveler	15,533	Long-billed curlew	2
Gadwall	12,353	Marbled godwit	3,592
American wigeon	1,887	Least sandpiper	22
Ruddy duck	1,050	Peeps	50
Unknown ducks	2,630	Long-billed dowitcher	4,060
Pied-billed grebe	18	Wilson's snipe	3
Eared grebe	10	Wilson's phalarope	1
Western grebe	443	Franklin's gull	8,290
Clark's grebe	211	Ring-billed gull	289
American white pelican	1,943	California gull	10
Double-crested cormorant	911	Caspian tern	7
Great blue heron	72	Forster's tern	33
Great egret	3	Black tern	127
Snowy egret	1,028	Virginia rail	2
Black-crowned night heron	11	American coot	6,523
White-faced ibis	13,553	Sandhill crane	4
Killdeer	36	Turkey vulture	2
Black-necked stilt	13,899	Northern harrier	3

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